

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

Ponton Bridge Divisions Identified In the PRC (S)

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PONTON BRIDGE DIVISIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE PRC (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (TSR) At least 12 ponton bridge divisions have been newly identified in the People's Republic of China (PRC; Figure 1 and Table 1). These divisions were identified as a result of an NPIC reevaluation of photographic signature criteria. This reevaluation caused an NPIC upgrading of unit size and does not represent actual upgrading by the PRC.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

2. (TSR) The reevaluation revealed that each ponton bridge regimental area consists of a large vehicle storage area with sufficient covered storage for approximately 100 to 140 wheeled vehicles.

[REDACTED] In addition, the overall size of the regimental area is significantly smaller than that of the combat regiment. Each ponton regiment contains approximately four small messhalls with three to four single-story barracks per messhall and does not have a multistory administration building or auditorium. This smaller size reflects the fewer personnel assigned to a ponton bridge regiment.¹

25X1

3. (TSR) Each ponton bridge division contains three to four regimental areas within approximately a 10-nautical-mile radius. The division headquarters area is adjacent to one of the regimental areas and contains a multistory administration building, an auditorium, and various support buildings (Figures 2 through 4).

4. (TSR) Utilizing the new signature criteria, 12 ponton bridge divisions were identified (Table 1). All of the newly identified units are equipped with TPP ponton bridge sets with the exceptions of the division at Huangshi (Huang-shih)/Echeng (O-cheng) in Wuhan (Wu-han) Military Region and the regiment at Wuxi (Wu-hsi) in Nanjing (Nan-ching) Military Region. These units are equipped with PPS heavy girder floating bridge sets. The PPS is manufactured at Guangji (Kuang-Chi) Shipyard [REDACTED]

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CONCLUSION

5. (TSR) It can be concluded from imagery analysis that a ponton bridge division is probably organized as outlined in Figure 5. The regiments are probably organized as described in the DIA Table of Organization and Equipment for the PRC.¹

6. (TSR) Each military region has at least one ponton bridge division with the exceptions of Wulumuqi (Wu-lu-mu-chi) and Chengdu (Chang-tu). Each division is on or near a major river and a major line of communications.

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FIGURE 1. PONTON BRIDGE DIVISIONS, PRC

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

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DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DI-220-1-72, *Table of Organization and Equipment, Peoples Republic of China*, Jan 72 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

Project 130143NF

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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Table 1.
Ponton Bridge Divisions in the PRC
(Keyed to Figure 1)

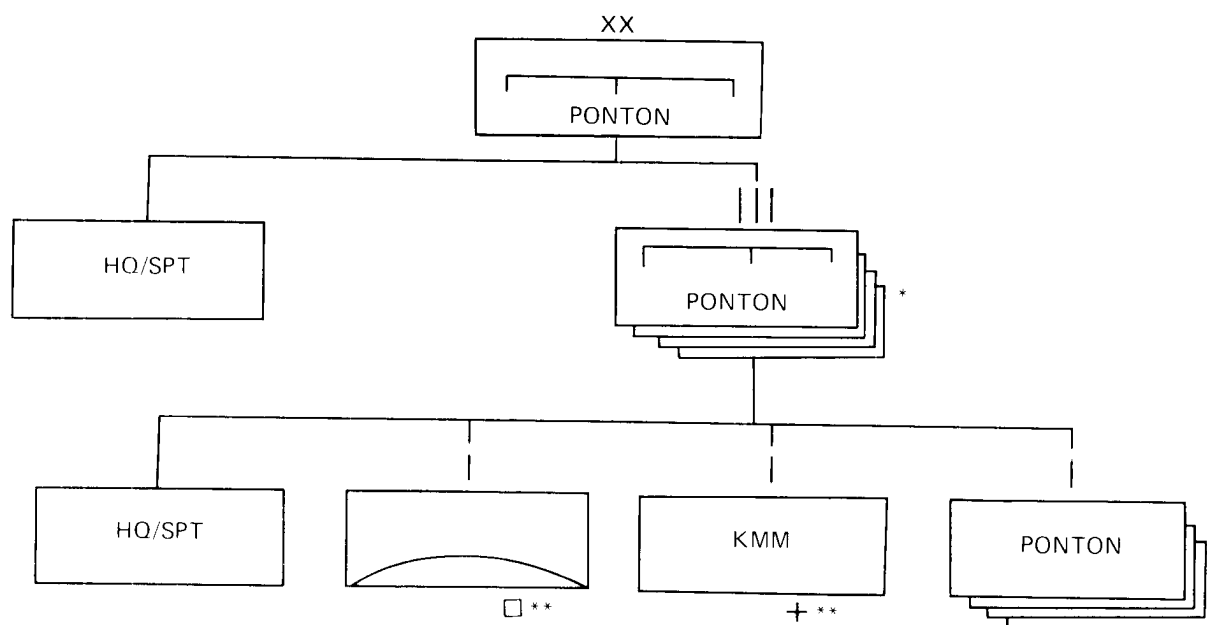
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Military Region	Item	Installation	Remarks	Military Region	Item	Installation	Remarks
Shenyang (Shen-yang)	1	Jilin (Chi-lin) Pontoon Br Regt A Bks AL-4 [redacted] 43-53-29N 126-30-20E	Division hq & 3 regiments (Fig 2)	Nanjing (Nan-ching)	8a	Bengbu (Pang-pu) Ponton Br Regt HQ A Bks AL-2 [redacted] 32-57-35N 117-24-01E	Division hq & 1, poss 2, regiments 25X1
	2	Dandong (Tan-tung) Pontoon Br Regt A Bks NE AL-4 [redacted] 40-12-05N 124-27-07E	Division hq & 3 prob regiments			Xuyi (Hsu-i) Army Bks [redacted] 32-56-50N 118-24-15E	1 or poss 2 regiments 25X1 25X1
		Shanghegou (Shang-ho-kou) Bks Area [redacted] 40-24-55N 124-47-20E	1 prob regiment		8b	Wuxi (Wu-hsi) Army Bks AL-8 [redacted] 31-32-40N 120-10-12E	1 regiment; prob not related to any currently identified divisions 25X1 25X1
Beijing (Peking)	3	Yangliuquing (Yang-liu-ching) Army Bks NE AL-1 [redacted] 39-08-27N 117-01-46E	Division hq & 4 regiments	Fuzhou (Fu-chou)	9	Baishazhen (Pai-shachen) Army Bks NW AL-1 [redacted] 26-13-00N 119-01-30E	Prob division hq & 1 regiment 25X1
Lanzhou (Lan-chou)	4	Shuiquan (Shui-chuan) Bks A Veh Stor Area [redacted] 36-45-45N 104-40-00E	Prob division hq, 1 confirmed regiment, & 3 prob regiments			Minqing (Min-ching) Army Bks AL-1 [redacted] 26-13-11N 118-57-28E	1 prob regiment 25X1 25X1
Jinan (Chi-nan)	5	Pingyin (Ping-yin) Pontoon Br Regt A Bks AL-1 [redacted] 36-17-53N 116-27-34E	Division hq & 3, poss 4, regiments			Minqing (Min-ching) Army Bks AL-2 [redacted] 26-12-42N 118-53-45E	1 prob regiment 25X1
Wuhan (Wu-han)	6	Huangshi (Huang-shih) Army Bks [redacted] 30-13-40N 115-01-00E	Division hq & 2 regiments (Fig 3)			Minqing (Min-ching) Army Bks [redacted] 26-13-08N 118-52-41E	1 poss regiment ucon 25X1 25X1
		Echeng (O-cheng) Army Bks ENE [redacted] 30-23-25N 115-02-08E	2 regiments (Fig 4)	Guangzhou (Kuang-chou)	10	Changsha (Chang-sha) Army Bks AL-6 [redacted] 28-14-30N 113-02-15E	Division hq & 3, prob 4, regiments 25X1 25X1
	7	Zhenwajie (Chen-wa-chieh) Army Bks East [redacted] 34-49-25N 112-26-55E	Poss division hq & 2 poss regiments ucon	Kunming (Kun-ming)	11	Yuxi (Yu-hsi) Bks Area AL-1 [redacted] 24-22-00N 102-34-20E	Prob division hq with at least 2 prob regiments 25X1 25X1
		Baihao (Pai-hao) Army Bks West [redacted] 34-52-10N 112-32-10E	1 confirmed & 1 poss regiment ucon		12	Diandou (Tien-tou) Army Bks and Engr Stor Dno [redacted] 24-18-19N 102-48-37E	Division hq & 4 regiments 25X1 25X1

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- * Four regiments not confirmed in all divisions.
- ** Have not been observed with PPS-type regiments.
- Air defense unit
- + Treadway bridge

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FIGURE 5. PROBABLE ORGANIZATION OF A PONTON BRIDGE DIVISION

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